

policy in Church and State. From the beginning there was a lack of confidence between them. William had already a brilliant career behind him. Charles V. had taken the warmest interest in him since in 1544, at the age of eleven, his father had sent him from the old ancestral castle of Dillenburg, in Nassau, to the court at Brussels. By inheritance he had become one of the richest and most powerful magnates of the Netherlands, though not a Netherlander by birth. His influence was increased by his marriage in 1551 with the daughter and heiress of the Count of Buren. Charles advanced him to high command in the war with Henry II. of France. In November 1555 Philip, in accord with his father's patronage, made him a member of the Council of State, and shortly afterwards a knight of the Golden Fleece. In his palaces at Brussels and Breda he maintained almost regal state. He won friends by his lavishness and his courtesy. In Philip's campaigns against Henry he again held high command, and though he did not shine as a soldier, compared with Egmont, he signalised his diplomatic powers as one of the negotiators of the Treaty of Cateau Cambresis. He was selected as one of the hostages for the execution of the treaty, and it was while sojourning at Paris in this capacity that he learned from the lips of Henry himself the great secret of the united crusade against the Protestants. He was not himself a Protestant, though he was the son of Protestant parents. He had been carefully educated by Charles in the Catholic faith, and at this period he professed himself in his letters to Philip and the Duchess of Parma an ardent Catholic. But, if we may trust his apology written twenty years later, his soul recoiled from the barbarous policy of extermination thus unwarily revealed to him, and between him and Philip there was an ominous lack of sympathy in this cardinal matter. He might profess zeal in suppressing heresy, at the instigation of the Duchess Margaret, in his principality of Orange in the south of France, but his second marriage with the daughter of the Elector Maurice of Saxony in 1561 did not bespeak the frantic bigot after Philip's own heart. Nor was he disposed to allow Philip and his representatives to play the autocrat at will with the aid of Spanish troops, and it was largely owing to his activity behind the scenes that the